

Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for assessing a physical exercise facility, comprising the steps of:
2 inspecting the facility by at least one inspector through at least one on-site inspection of
3 the facility by the at least one inspector; and
4 rating the facility using a plurality of rating factors derived from the at least one on-site
5 inspection.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the rating factors include comradery experienced by users of
2 the facility.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the rating factors further include healthfulness of the
2 environment of the facility, competence of trainers utilized by the facility for assisting and guiding
3 the users, and quality, quantity, and variety of exercise equipment available to the users.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the rating factors further include availability of products and
2 services supplied by the facility for use by the users in support of at least one of exercise and
3 health goals of the users.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the rating step includes generating an overall rating for the
2 facility, and wherein the overall rating is a function of the rating factors.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising publishing the overall rating.

1 7. The method of claim 6, further comprising publishing the rating factors.

1 8. The method of claim 6, wherein publishing the overall rating includes publishing the overall
2 rating on an Internet website.

1 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the Internet website is owned or controlled by an organization
2 that performs the rating step.

1 10. The method of claim 5, wherein the overall rating is an unweighted arithmetic average of the
2 rating factors.

1 11. The method of claim 5, wherein the overall rating is a weighted arithmetic average of the
2 rating factors.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the rating factors include comradery experienced by users
2 of the facility, and wherein said comradery has a higher weight than any other rating factor

3 utilized for generating said overall rating.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one on-site inspection consists of a plurality of
2 on-site inspections.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one on-site inspection includes an unscheduled
2 inspection by the at least one inspector.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one inspector consists of a plurality of inspectors.

1 16. The method of claim 15, wherein the plurality of inspectors includes a male inspector and a
2 female inspector.

1 17. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one inspector has taken a training course
2 pertinent to performing said inspecting.

1 18. The method of claim 17, wherein the training course was sponsored by an organization that
2 performs the rating step.

1 19. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one inspector has passed an examination that
2 tests knowledge of physical exercise, health, and dynamics of comradery.

1 20. The method of claim 1, wherein the at least one trained inspector is physically fit, has a
2 physically fit appearance, and has passed a minimum strength test.

1 21. A system for assessing a physical exercise facility, comprising:
2 an inspection team including at least one inspector, said team adapted to inspect the
3 facility through at least one on-site inspection of the facility by the at least one inspector; and
4 an organization adapted to rate the facility using a plurality of rating factors derived from
5 the at least one on-site inspection.

1 22. The system of claim 21, wherein the rating factors include comradery experienced by users of
2 the facility.

1 23. The system of claim 22, wherein the rating factors further include healthfulness of the
2 environment of the facility, competence of trainers utilized by the facility for assisting and guiding
3 the users, and quality, quantity, and variety of exercise equipment available to the users.

1 24. The system of claim 23, wherein the rating factors further include availability of products and
2 services supplied by the facility for use by the users in support of at least one of exercise and
3 health goals of the users.

1 25. The system of claim 21, wherein the organization is further adapted to generate an overall
2 rating for the facility, and wherein the overall rating is a function of the rating factors.

1 26. The system of claim 25, further comprising means for publishing the overall rating.

1 27. The system of claim 26, further comprising means for publishing the rating factors.

1 28. The system of claim 26, wherein publishing the overall rating includes publishing the overall
2 rating on an Internet website.

1 29. The system of claim 28, wherein the Internet website is owned or controlled by the
2 organization.

1 30. The system of claim 25, wherein the overall rating is an unweighted arithmetic average of the
2 rating factors.

1 31. The system of claim 25, wherein the overall rating is a weighted arithmetic average of the
2 rating factors.

1 32. The system of claim 31, wherein the rating factors include comradery experienced by users of
2 the facility, and wherein said comradery has a higher weight than any other rating factor utilized
3 for generating said overall rating.

1 33. The system of claim 31, wherein the at least one on-site inspection consists of a plurality of
2 on-site inspections.

1 34. The system of claim 31, wherein the at least one on-site inspection includes an unscheduled
2 inspection by the at least one inspector.

1 35. The system of claim 31, wherein the at least one inspector consists of a plurality of
2 inspectors.

1 36. The system of claim 35, wherein the plurality of inspectors includes a male inspector and a
2 female inspector.

1 37. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one inspector has taken a training course
2 pertinent to performing said inspecting.

1 38. The system of claim 37, wherein the training course was sponsored by the organization.

1 39. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one inspector has passed an examination that
2 tests knowledge of physical exercise, health, and dynamics of comradery.

1 40. The system of claim 21, wherein the at least one trained inspector is physically fit, has a
2 physically fit appearance, and has passed a minimum strength test.